

NYSERNet

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August 14, 1997

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Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

NYSERNet
125 Elwood Davis Road
Syracuse, NY 13212-4311
www.nysernet.org

RE: CC: Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, DA 97-1561

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

NYSERNet, Inc., a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 network research organization, on behalf of itself, our affiliated company, AppliedTheory Communications, and our member institutions, believes we can play a significant role as a member of the Board of Directors for the Schools and Libraries Corporation. Our organization offers a unique and important perspective on the implementation and use of Internet technologies in the educational community. From its creation in 1984, NYSERNet has played the leadership role in designing and building Internet capabilities for New York State's higher education community. This experience has also been translated into a number of important activities in support of k-12 schools and libraries during the past decade to ensure their ability to use this important technology.

As a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 company, one of our stated objectives is to act as an expert information resource for schools, libraries and museums on networking. NYSERNet has been an active participant in the New York State Public Service Commission's School and Library Committee and has been invited to participate on the New York State Education Department's Technology Implementation Committee. We currently maintain an online resource <http://nysernet.org/TIPS> to provide information on a range of technology related issues impacting schools and libraries including the Universal Service Fund.

Prior to creating a separate for profit affiliate, AppliedTheory Communications, NYSERNet built and operated a substantial IP network throughout New York State. In fact this was the first regional network in the country when originally established in 1987. As part of our efforts to serve the educational community in the development years of the Internet, NYSERNet established points of presence in a number of smaller cities in upstate New York. By pushing the network into these areas we enabled connectivity to the network by schools and libraries in areas which would not otherwise have been served. NYSERNet has also undertaken grant programs to schools across the state and worked closely with k-12 schools and various Boards of Cooperative Educational Centers to develop training programs for faculty.

We continue to work with k-12 and libraries to identify and test new solutions for bringing affordable network solutions to the classroom. For example, NYSERNet has recently been awarded a National Science Foundation grant for a trial program which will allow schools in the Rochester, New York area to connect to the Internet using wireless technology.

Currently, AppliedTheory Communications operates and maintains a statewide IP network. This network provides service not only to a significant portion of New York State's higher education institutions but a large number of k-12 schools and libraries as well. AppliedTheory

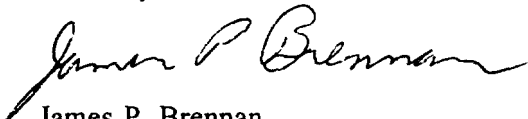
take significant pride in its ability to provide an IP network service designed and built for research and university users, to k-12 schools and libraries across New York State.

Clearly the momentum to bring the benefits of technology to the educational community has increased significantly at both the state and national level. The implementation of the Universal Service Fund for Schools and Libraries will have a dramatic impact on this process. NYSERNet, we believe, is uniquely positioned to assist the Commission in this effort. We bring to the School and Library Corporation over a decade's experience in connecting educational institutions to the Internet. Our Board of Directors is comprised primarily of representatives from colleges and universities from across New York State. We also bring an in-depth understanding of the requirements and challenges of Internet Service Providers based on our experience as an ISP and that of our affiliated company.

NYSERNet's participation on the School and Libraries Board brings with it a substantial community interested in the successful implementation of the Universal Services Fund. This community includes our twenty two member institutions (attachment A) from higher education institutions, New York State government and research institutions. We can also draw upon our affiliated company for its insights and counsel regarding the impact of the program upon service providers. Finally, through our ongoing involvement with New York State's efforts to implement its program, we are working closely with a diverse group of organizations from the education, library, government and commercial sectors to make this program a success at the State level as well.

I hope that the information provided above conveys to you the importance which NYSERNet places on the successful implementation of technology in our education system and our commitment to this process. We believe that NYSERNet can play a significant and beneficial role on the School and Library Corporation's Board of Directors and hope that you agree. I look forward to hearing from you regarding our request to participate and am available to answer any questions you may have at your convenience.

Sincerely,



James P. Brennan
Associate Director
Government Services
NYSERNet, Inc.
385 Jordan Road
Troy, NY 12180-3590

/Jpb
Attachment

cc: Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission ✓

Commissioner Hundt

August 14, 1997

Attachment A
NYSERNet, Inc.
Board of Director Institutions

- Alfred University
- Brookhaven National Laboratory
- City University of New York
- Clarkson University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Eastman Kodak
- Hofstra University
- Marist College
- New York Public Library
- New York University
- NYNEX Science & Technology, Inc.
- Polytechnic University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- The Rockefeller University
- State University of New York at Albany
- State University of New York at Binghamton
- State University of New York at Buffalo
- State University of New York at Stony Brook
- Syracuse University
- University of Rochester

Ex-Officio

New York State Education Department
State University of New York, Central Administration

2B1 FOUNDATION

611 Riverside Avenue
Westport, CT 06880

Phone: 203.227.5099
Fax: 617.253.6215
e-mail: peter@2B1.org

August 15, 1997

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FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Office of the Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554
By Fax Only: 202.418.2801

Mr. Bill Caton
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Messrs. Hundt and Caton:

I write to place my name in nomination for the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). I do this at the request of the Board of Directors of the 2B1 Foundation, a not-for-profit Internet access company where I serve as president and chief executive officer, and out of a deep concern that advanced telecommunication and information services serve to close rather than expand the gap between the digital haves and the digital have nots, particularly as the gap affects children.

The mission of the 2B1 Foundation is to bring the benefits of digital learning and communication to all the primary school children of the world. We are developing new information delivery mechanisms, and piloting methods of using connectivity in the classroom to enhance children's ability to direct their own learning in all economic and geographic settings. Our equal goal is to reduce, through digital connectivity, the isolation of lower income and remote school districts.

The founder and chairman of the foundation is Nicholas Negroponte, founder of the Media Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, author of *being digital* (1995), and a forceful theorist and advocate for the broadest and highest standards of value achievable from new communication technology and connectivity. 2B1's vice chairman is Dr. Seymour Papert, author of *Mindstorms* (1980) and *The Children's Machine* (1993) and a pioneer in applying computer technology to primary level education.

Our advisory board includes Mitchel Resnick, who founded the Computer Club providing after school access to computer and Internet technology for urban teenagers, and Clotilde Fonseca, director of the Fundación Omar Dengo, which has transformed primary education in Costa Rica through the use computers in teaching and has added an Internet initiative to its latest phase of expansion beyond the 50 percent of that nation's schoolchildren Omar Dengo already reaches.

Mr. Hundt spoke to 2B1's worldwide workshop on children, learning and computers at MIT in July of this year. The audience of more than 100 educators in attendance, many from low income and marginalized communities around the world, lauded the vision of the recent Act and of the Universal Service initiative.

Our direct interest in service on the USAC Board is to see that universal service supports the availability of services like ours and other information and access providers equally across the country. Our broader charter is to raise awareness in industry and government of the precise nature of the enormous benefits connectivity and information services access have for children. My appointment would bring the Board a steady voice for the interests of information services and access providers, state-of-the-art understanding of the value of advanced telecommunication and information technology in classroom and daily life, and a broad institutional vision of the value attainable through universal access to the benefits promoted by the Commission.

I have enclosed a brief biography and would happily provide any additional information that may be required.

Sincerely



Peter Cawley
President

Attachment

cc: Mike Nelson
FCC Office of Plans and Policy (Fax: 202.418.2807)

Peter B. Cawley
17 Gault Avenue
Westport, CT 06880

Peter Cawley is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the 2B1 Foundation and a founding member of its Board of Directors. The foundation is organized as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of New York and under the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. The mission of the foundation is to accelerate the growth of Internet access for primary school children around the world, and to develop enhanced learning methods via computer and Internet technology. The foundation believes that the benefits for children in being digital are both deep and wide, and center upon inclusion, not exclusion, from a burgeoning world digital community.

Mr. Cawley was formerly the Chief Financial Officer and Acting Executive Director of New York City's Big Apple Circus – a \$15 million not-for-profit organization that operates a one-ring classical circus, pediatric health care at 12 hospitals in several Eastern cities, and an inner city arts in education program.

Mr. Cawley previously held planning and financial posts at textbook publisher John Wiley & Sons, where he introduced new publishing technology methods and became a featured speaker at the Seybold Conferences on Technology. He earlier served as head of financial planning at the telecommunications-based information services and satellite direct broadcast services venture CNR Partners, a \$90 million investment of Nynex, General Electric and Citicorp which he co-developed as a corporate planning and business development manager at General Electric's NBC division.

In an earlier career as a journalist, Mr. Cawley was a reporter and editor at the Associated Press. He holds master's degrees in public and private management from Yale University (1983) and in journalism from Northwestern University (1977), and an undergraduate degree in comparative literature from Brown University (1974).

Mr. Cawley has served as a member of the board of directors of the alumni association of the Yale School of Management, as president of the Compo Homeowner's Association, and as a soccer coach and elementary school parent/teaching assistant in the Westport (Conn.) public schools. With his wife, Leslie, a graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy (1979) and of the Yale School of Management (1984), he lives in Westport with their three sons, Peter, aged 9, Geoffrey, aged 6 and Jay, aged 4.